

2004 – 2005 Innovative Projects Summary

<u>Asotin/Garfield</u>	<u>North Snohomish</u>	<u>Kitsap</u>	<u>Whatcom</u>	<u>Lewis</u>	<u>Yakima/Kittitas</u>	<u>East King</u>	<u>Grant/Adams</u>
Straight From the Heart	Cultural Awareness for A Diverse Community	Dependable Strengths Job Preparation Training Program	Dependable Strengths Training Program	Driver's Relicensing Program	Wapato Teen Project	DCS Video Interview	Teen Workshop
Approved Amount \$4,645	Approved Amount \$8,000	Approved Amount \$9,590	Approved Amount \$8,000	Approved Amount \$9,500	Approved Amount \$6,000	Approved Amount \$4,000	Approved Amount \$2,100
<p>This project will help support WorkFirst performance by serving as a preventative project. It's our hope to prevent teenagers of TANF households from becoming parents in TANF households. We hope this workshop enables teens to become more self-sufficient and better citizens with jobs, training, and goals they wouldn't have considered if not for this workshop.</p>	<p>The goal of the "Cultural Awareness for A Diverse Community" is twofold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase diversity awareness and understanding in the community in order to have more positive interaction between the community and our Limited English Proficient (LEP) and ethnic minority clients. 2. Increase diversity awareness and understanding in employers so that they can successfully employ immigrants, refugees, new arrivals to Snohomish County and ethnic minority clients. <p>Diversity awareness and understanding are essential for the success of this population to compete and succeed in today's ever-evolving</p>	<p>The "Dependable Strengths Articulation Process" (DSAP) will focus on customers who are currently in a deferment status. We believe that these deferred customers, even as they individually work to eliminate their barriers to employment, would benefit from participation in a "Career Engagement Process". In providing the deferred customers with a brief 20-hour workshop, they would begin to focus on their future careers even while they address their personal challenges.</p>	<p>Our LPA will use the Dependable Strengths Articulation Model as the basis for our approach to Team Based Case Management, and will deliver the 2.5 day Dependable Strengths workshop as a portion of our Job Preparation activities, and will make this course available to tribal participants who are not currently served by ESD job search services. This model is shown to increase participants' ability to identify and communicate their strengths and accomplishments effectively which increases their ability to compete for family-wage jobs and employment in general, and to advocate for themselves in wage and job progression. Additionally, the use of this model in conjunction with job</p>	<p>The Lewis County LPA is proposing to implement a Driver's Relicensing Program for WorkFirst participants. This project will support overall WorkFirst performance in several ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Employment - enabling participants to pursue and obtain jobs requiring a valid driver's license to apply, 2) Retention – enabling participants to keep jobs because legal transportation is not an issue; and 3) Caseload Reduction – enabling participants to become self sufficient through employment. 	<p>The Wapato Teen Project will prepare parenting or pregnant Native American teens by teaching life skills enabling them to complete school and enter the labor market. Current and future WorkFirst caseloads will be reduced as the teens finish school and enter the workforce. Sanction rates among Native American teens due to non-attendance in school will be reduced.</p>	<p>This project puts TANF parents in direct contact with Seattle Division of Child Support employees. When the parent is interviewed over the video conferencing equipment, DCS has an opportunity to explain how child support can be an additional financial resource for parents as they work toward self sufficiency. The Division of Child Support attempts to identify information during this interview that will lead to more rapid collection of child support for the TANF parent. Our goal is to collect an appropriate child support amount from non-custodial parents which will be an additional resource for parents as they transition from TANF to employment. A recent addition to the partnership is KC/Assessment Center. Employees</p>	<p>Mandatory WorkFirst Teens normally do not receive any attention unless they are in a crisis or are not attending school. Generational welfare still exists and without knowledge of alternatives, it may continue. This provides power to teens living on public assistance households to make better choices or at least know there is a way to improve their lives and hopefully prevent them from becoming dependent on our system.</p> <p>Our primary goal is to educate teens about the options they have to improve their lives. Teenagers that are aware of resources, particularly training, family planning, and job search, may be less likely to be dependent on welfare in the future. These teens may also be able</p>

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	<p>marketplace. To understand diverse populations, it is critical to understand the fundamental values and beliefs that motivate the decisions each must make whether it relates to employment, education, or family functioning.</p>		<p>search techniques and other life skills training for participants in other geographic areas has also proven to dramatically improve program retention rates, and job retention rates, reducing recidivism to TANF (Kitsap LPA is an example). <u>Our LPA is using this model as our primary, up-front strategy for JOB RETENTION.</u> The strength-based approach will positively impact 5 of the Governor's measures for our area: Caseload reduction, Long-term exits from TANF, Jobs Leading to Exit from TANF, Percent Remaining Employed, and Percent Increasing Earnings.</p>			<p>from the assessment center use the video interviewing equipment and the DCS location to interview King Eastside parents and provide chemical dependency assessments.</p>	<p>to take this information to their parents and may be able to influence their parent's decisions.</p> <p>Outcomes may not be realized immediately, other than being able to update Individual Responsibility plans for all in attendance, but caseloads and maybe even teen pregnancies may decline with the information they receive at this workshop. We may also get teens to realize that post-secondary education is a possibility, motivating many to stay in school.</p> <p>We expect to continue such workshops on a yearly basis, possibly during the summer just prior to the start of the school year. We may not have the funds to provide lunch and a speaker, but it is something that if proven worthwhile, we will continue to support through Support Services and with assistance from our WorkFirst Partners.</p>